



PEN-International Year Six Accomplishments April 2007

The Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-International), a multinational partnership of colleges and universities worldwide, was created in 2001 at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). PEN-International exists to improve and expand postsecondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals around the world, particularly in developing countries. PEN accomplishes this by sharing educational technology, conducting faculty development and training, constructing state-of-the-art multimedia laboratories at partner institutions, sponsoring student cross-cultural exchanges, providing partners with a platform to share experiences and expertise with other colleagues, and disseminating network and program information. The program is funded by more than \$7 million in grants from The Nippon Foundation of Japan.

PEN-International is the first and only world-wide network of postsecondary education programs serving the deaf. Currently, the network includes sixteen (16) partner and affiliate institutions from Japan, China, Russia, the Philippines, the Czech Republic, Korea, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Thailand. Four of these institutions, from Korea, Vietnam, and Hong Kong, joined the PEN-International network within the last year. The PEN-International network includes the following institutions:

- National Tsukuba University of Technology, Japan
- Tianjin University of Technology, Beijing Union University, Changchun University, and Zhongzhou University, in China
- Bauman Moscow State Technical University, the Institute for Social Rehabilitation at Novosibirsk State Technical University, Vladimir State University, and the Academy of Management at Kazan, in Russia
- De La Salle College of St. Benilde, Philippines
- Charles University, Czech Republic
- Korea Nazarene University and the Korea Employment Promotion Agency for the Disabled, Korea
- Dong Nai Provincial Teacher's College, Vietnam
- Centre for Sign Linguistics & Deaf Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Ratchasuda College of Mahidol University, Thailand

These partner institutions have shown their commitment to PEN-International's mission by achieving their own program goals and conducting the work of PEN-International throughout their home countries.

Global Network - Enhanced Local Capability

PEN is achieving its overarching vision to develop an international network that enhances and maintains local capability and global networking at each participant postsecondary institution. Participant institutions evolve from being importers of information to being self-sufficient technology providers and then exporters of this technology to other programs in their home countries. This general model applies to all participants in the network. To this extent, an institution that has a particular expertise might serve as an exporter of knowledge to other institutions while at the same time continuing to import knowledge in which it is lagging. Eventually, each participant becomes a major exporter of knowledge within its home country.

PEN-International facilitates this international network by leading or sharing innovations. The other participant institutions are nodes on the international network, fostering an educational ripple effect throughout their home countries.





From the outset, PEN administrators were determined to address locally defined and delineated needs and never to impose solutions on participant organizations. Therefore, each program within each participant university is customized. Each university is able to choose the subjects and curriculum that best meets their individualized needs and program goals. Faculty members at partner institutions receive quality training and have access to instructional tools and resources thus significantly reducing the time it would take to implement such changes and improvements in the classroom. PEN's fundamental operating principle is, "All participants will work in partnership to determine solutions that meet local needs." In-depth workshops have been designed to address specific areas of need identified by partner institutions. These in-depth training sessions generally consist of a series of workshops being conducted over a one to two week period.

PEN-International has dramatically helped students around the world. PEN's workshops adhere to the same principles used by NTID, the world's largest technological college for students who are deaf and hard of hearing and an international model for educating and preparing deaf students for technology-related careers. The curriculum at partner institutions improves to meet the specific needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing students after faculty members apply what they have learned to the classroom. Faculty members and students now have access to technologies that facilitates the teaching/learning process. PEN-International also supports both real and virtual student exchanges between participating universities. This cross-culture exchange program strengthens each participant's cultural and personal identity and helps students develop an understanding of the diverse cultures that affect our world. All of these factors contribute to a better quality of education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students overall.

Supported by The Nippon Foundation of Japan to Enhance Opportunities for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students

PEN-International is funded by grants from The Nippon Foundation of Japan to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester (New York) Institute of Technology (RIT). The Nippon Foundation of Japan is a grant-making organization based in Japan that provides financial assistance for activities that they determine can improve the quality of living of people around the world. The Nippon Foundation of Japan's support for deaf education began with supporting deaf or hard-of-hearing students from developing countries to study in the United States. The Foundation's involvement with PEN-International has allowed increased postsecondary educational opportunities for the deaf in their home countries; thus expanding beyond just the "lucky few."

Widespread Dissemination of Resource Materials

PEN-International also recognizes the need to share resource information with educators of the deaf, reaching beyond current partners, for the purpose of improving the quality of education as well as employment opportunities for all deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals around the world. For this reason, widespread dissemination of resource materials and information is a primary goal of the PEN-International program. PEN-International utilizes various strategies that are designed to communicate available instruction resources including a comprehensive and continuously updated web site, publication of articles in a multitude of worldwide publications, and participation in numerous deafness related conferences and events. For example, the PEN www site received 1,240,000 hits by over 35,000 visitors in the last year; 10,000 more visitors than in the previous year. All workshop agendas, resources and evaluation data are posted on the PEN-International web site for public access (<http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu/>).

Quote from PEN partner:

"I find the project, PEN-International, very valuable to all its participants. Especially I like that it is all about never ending process of learning and sharing positive value with others. Sharing knowledge, sharing information, sharing experience, establishing contacts and cooperation that really works. Our American colleagues do a great job by 'making a bridge over the troubled waters' and showing the others the way. We really feel like we now are quite professional."



*Accomplishments in Year Six*

The following is a summary of programs and accomplishments from project year six, reflecting a snapshot of work done within the past year alone.

- PEN-International staff developed more than 30 workshops for 40 different training sessions with more than 370 educators from partner countries. Although the total number of educators that directly received training from PEN-International decreased from the previous year, the number of students being impacted by training increased. Participation in these workshops directly impacted 1,800 of their students, an increase of 300 more students than the previous year.
- Partner institutions conducted over 40 workshops in their home countries as a result of skills learned through PEN-International training initiatives. Partner institutions trained over 2,100 individuals through their own exporting initiatives, more than doubling the number trained by partner institutions in year five. The total number of educators of the deaf and hard of hearing worldwide being trained by PEN-International and partner institutions equaled 2,500, an increase of 300 from the previous year.
- Four new partner institutions were added to the PEN-International network within the last year: Dong Nai Provincial Teacher's College in Vietnam, The Korea Employment Promotion Agency for the Disabled (KEPAD) and Korea Nazarene University (KNU) both in Korea, and The Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong.
- A new and updated PEN-International Web site was created. The goal of this significant redesign project was to improve the utility of our original web pages, that served us well for almost six years. PEN wanted to improve the "universal portal" concept, make the site easier to use, and improve access to the information and resources on the site. (<http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu>)
- PEN-International was named a 2006 Education and Academia Laureate by the Computerworld Honors Program. The award, given by the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation, recognizes organizations that use information technology to promote positive social, economic, and educational change. PEN-International was one of 30 Laureates chosen out of approximately 200 applicants.
- PEN-International hosted the first-ever Summer Leadership Institute, a multinational week-long program for postsecondary deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The Summer Leadership Institute took place 5-12 August, 2006 at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England. A total of 20 students representing five partner institutions from United States, Philippines, Japan, China, and Russia participated in the program. The goals of the institute were to promote development of leadership skills among postsecondary student leaders; to focus on self-advocacy skills in the areas of support services in postsecondary education, community access and employment; and to engage in learning about Deaf Culture and awareness. These goals were accomplished through ice-breaking activities, presentations by faculty and students, cultural performances and demonstrations, exercises and games, and social events.
- In January and February of 2007, PEN-International conducted two teleconferences between NTID and the College of St. Benilde, Manila, Philippines. The teleconferences were each two hours in length. The objectives of the training sessions were to discuss the design of mathematics courses for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, describe and compare various classroom presentation options, explore various visual strategies for presenting and solving mathematical problems, develop and appreciate the way in which spoken and signed language impacts the teaching and learning of mathematics, identify ways that scientific calculators can motivate and enhance student learning, and discuss the role of tutoring and other support services in supporting mathematics instruction.





- In March 2006, two separate training sessions were conducted with two of the new partners from Vietnam and Hong Kong. These partners were trained on the process of creating line drawings of sign language from digital color photographs for the purpose of producing sign language print resources to form curriculum and dictionary materials. These materials will aid in the teaching/learning of deaf and hard-of-hearing students at these institutions.

Challenges/Goals for Project Year Seven

- Continue the move towards local capability, providing partner institutions the support and resources needed.
- Plan and prepare for the 2008 International Technology Symposium entitled “Instruction Technology and Education of the Deaf: Supporting Learners, K-College.” This event will mark the fourth time PEN-International has hosted this International Technology Symposium since 2001.
- Plan and prepare for the 2008 Summer Leadership Institute. The Summer Leadership Institute will be a recurring event due to the overwhelming success of the first-ever Summer Leadership Institute that took place in 2006.
- Continue to evaluate and measure impact of PEN-International and its partners training and outreach initiatives.

May 3, 2007

